

HEALTH
15 NOV 51
C.R.

LIBRARY



LEIGHTON BUZZARD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OF THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR
1950

M. J. PLEYDELL, M.C., M.D., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

M. S. LESLIE, M.R.San.I. Cert. R.S.A. (Scot.)
Sanitary Inspector



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29727704>

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
LEIGHTON BUZZARD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the annual report upon the health, vital statistics and sanitary conditions of the Leighton Buzzard Urban District Council.

Early in the year the Public Health Service sustained a severe loss in the untimely death of Mr. B. H. Robjant. As Medical Officer of Health, I take this opportunity of testifying to the excellent work Mr. Robjant did in Leighton Buzzard during his twenty-five years of office.

Inspection of the statistics shows that the birth rate and adjusted death rate compare favourably with those for England and Wales, and it is satisfactory to note that there were no maternal deaths.

The incidence of measles and whooping cough was approximately the same as last year. In the former infection the majority of cases occurred during the summer months, while in both infections children over two years of age were chiefly affected. One case of amoebic dysentery was notified from the R.A.F. Camp; and one case of diphtheria occurred in a person who had not been immunised against this infection.

One of the problems in public health today is the role of the aged in modern society. The 1951 Census will enable an exact computation of age groups to be made, but a national assessment shows that there is approximately one person over 65 for every six persons of the 15-65 year age group, and it is estimated that in the next quarter of a century this proportion will increase to one to four or even one to three. This is of considerable importance; for although hospital services for old people are provided by the regional hospital board, while the domiciliary help afforded by the nursing services and home-help scheme comes within the ambit of the County Council, yet their housing requirements remain the concern of the local authority.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the officials and their staff for their help and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

M. J. PLEYDELL,
Medical Officer of Health.

7th September, 1951.

STAFF IN PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT—1950

Medical Officer of Health: M. J. Pleydell, M.C., M.D., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector: B. H. Robjant, M.R.San.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector: M. S. Leslie, M.R.San.I., Cert. R.S.A. (Scot.)

Meat Inspector: Capt. W. A. Gibbs, M.R.C.V.S.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	2487
Population, Census for 1931	7030
Registrar-General's estimate of population, mid-year 1950	9105
Number of Inhabited Houses (at end of 1949) according to the Rate Book	2641
Rateable Value	£47583
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£181/8/8

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The urban district is a fairly compact one of 2,487 acres, from which the roads radiate in three main directions to a large farming area, to meet the needs of which, there is an increasing number of persons engaged in the expanding agricultural industries. The town itself is nearly 300 feet above sea level and is pleasantly situated in the centre of the district. The very wide High Street is a feature of the town and, along with Market Square, constitutes the main Banking and Commercial area.

The post-war residential development still clings to the northern part of the town with the industrial development in the south. There is land in the southern half, however, which has been earmarked for future housing development which will help to create a more balanced community.

Sand quarrying and a number of associated works engaged in the manufacture of roofing tiles and concrete products, still remain the chief industries of the town. Light industrial establishments engaged in the manufacture of corsets, clothing, stationery and plastics, employ a considerable number of female hands from Leighton Buzzard and surrounding districts.

Sport and recreation are provided by privately owned grounds in the southern part of the Town with facilities for football, cricket, tennis and bowls. Pleasure grounds owned by the Council also provide for sport and recreation and certain areas have been planned for extension. The new Housing Estate will also have a playground area in close proximity to the shopping area.

In view of its height above sea level and its being situated on a sand stratum, Leighton Buzzard can be considered to have a healthy environment.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

					Total	Male	Female
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...	...	...	147	71	76
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	8	5	3
					—	—	—
				Total	155	76	79
					—	—	—

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population is 17.0.

Birth Rate for England and Wales, 15.8.

					Total	Male	Female
Still Births—Legitimate	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
					—	—	—
				Total	4	—	4
					—	—	—

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births:— 25.2.

Still Rate for England and Wales:— 22.6.

DEATHS

						Total	Male	Female
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	113	57	56

giving a crude death rate of 12.4 per 1,000 of the resident population. Adjusted death rate is 11.4.

Death Rate for England and Wales:— 11.6.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths during the year. The Maternal Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 0.86.

INFANT MORTALITY

Five deaths occurred amongst all infants under one year of age, giving an infant mortality rate of 32.3 per 1,000 live births. The infant mortality rate for England and Wales was 29.8.

CAUSES OF DEATH

								Male	Female
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
4	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
8	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	4
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	6
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	5
19	Hypertension, with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
20	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	10
21	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
22	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
26	Ulcer stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	10
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
34	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
35	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
								—	—
	All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	57	56
								—	—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service is situated in the Town Hall, Luton.

This Service is under the direction of the Medical Research Council acting for the Ministry of Health and is free of charge to the Local Authority.

One of the main functions of this Service is to co-operate with General Practitioners and Medical Officers of Health in the diagnosis, prevention and control of infectious diseases. For these purposes the laboratory undertake the examination of material, e.g., throat swabs, sputa, faeces, urine and blood, from any patient suspected to be suffering from a communicable infection, or of being a carrier.

2. AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Service provided by the Bedfordshire County Council has satisfactorily met the demands that are occurring. It covers the full twenty-four hours, and is free of charge.

In addition to moving emergency cases, ambulances or sitting case car transport are available for carrying patients unable to travel by other means to and from Hospitals and Clinics, at which attendance is necessary for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.

Except in the case of an emergency, the request for an ambulance must be made by a Medical Practitioner or other authorised person. This should be to the nearest depot.

Out patients of Hospitals using public transport are reimbursed their travelling expenses by the Hospital Authorities.

The Service also covers the removal to Isolation Hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.

Depots are situated as follows :

AMPTHILL, Claridges Lane. Telephone : Ampthill 2187.

BEDFORD, Newnham Avenue. Telephone : Bedford 4875.

BIGGLESWADE, Crab Lane. Telephone : Biggleswade 2295.

DUNSTABLE, High Street North. Telephone : Dunstable 76.

LINSLADE, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard and Wing Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade Headquarters, 10, New Road, Linslade.
Telephone : Leighton Buzzard 3332.

LUTON, 42, Church Street. Telephone : Luton 4600.

RUSHDEN, Rushden and District Motor Ambulance Association, Mr. C. C. Woods, 3, Purvise Road. Telephone : Rushden 403.

3. DOMICILIARY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SERVICE

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council are responsible for the provision of this Service, and the nurses and midwives in the District are the employees of the County Council.

Direct administration is by the Southern Divisional Health Committee.

The names and addresses of the Nursing and Midwifery service are as follows:—

Nurse Curry, S.R.N., S.C.M., 8, Beaudesert, Leighton Buzzard.

Nurse Jones, S.C.M., S.E.A.N., 21, Oakley Green, Leighton Buzzard.

Nurse M. D. Chapman, S.E.A.N., S.C.M., 30, George Street, Leighton Buzzard.

HEALTH VISITING

There is one Health Visitor employed by the County Council, who visits the homes of mothers to give advice and help.

4. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

INFANT WELFARE CLINIC—Grovebury Road, every Friday 2-4 p.m.,
alternate Fridays 10 a.m.-12 noon.

A Medical Officer and Health Visitor are in attendance, assisted by several voluntary lady workers.

SCHOOL CLINIC—Mondays and Thursdays, 10 a.m.-12 noon.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC—

Grovebury Road, alternate Fridays, 10 a.m.-12 noon.

DENTAL CLINIC—

Grovebury Road, alternate Fridays, 10 a.m.-11.30 a.m.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CLINIC—

Grovebury Road, alternate Fridays, 10 a.m.-12 noon.

VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC—Luton and Dunstable Hospital:—

The Clinic is open daily for both males and females from 8.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. A Doctor is in attendance on Mondays and Fridays from 6 p.m.-8.30 p.m. and on Saturday from 8.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

CHEST CLINIC—St. Mary's Hospital, Grove Road, Luton:—

Monday	Alternate Mondays Patients seen by appointment only by Dr. Leelander, Consultant Physician to the Clinic, and other Mondays reserved for new contacts only.
Tuesday	9.15 a.m.-12 noon—Children. 2 p.m.—Female A.P. Refills. 3 p.m.—Male A.P. Refills. 6 p.m.—Female Clinic. 6.30 p.m.—Male Clinic.
Wednesday	9.15 a.m.-1 p.m.—New Patients Clinic. 9.15 a.m.-11 a.m.—Ante-Natal Clinic.
Thursday	9.15 a.m.-1 p.m.—Female Clinic.
Friday	9.15 a.m.-12 noon—Male Clinic. 2 p.m.—Female Clinic. 3 p.m.—Male Clinic.
Saturday	9 a.m.-12 noon.—Old Contacts.

5. HOSPITALS

GENERAL MEDICAL, SURGICAL AND MATERNITY CASES—These are usually admitted into either the Luton and Dunstable, or St. Mary's Hospital, Luton, or the Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—Cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, Erysipelas, and cases of Measles and Whooping Cough, with complications, are treated at Spittlesea Hospital, Luton.

TUBERCULOSIS—There is accommodation for 72 patients at Mogerhanger Sanatorium. Cases from the County are also admitted to other Sanatoria.

On 5th July, when the National Health Service Act, 1946, became operative, these Hospitals passed into the ownership of the Minister of Health, for whom they

are administered by the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, with the exception of the Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury, which Hospital is within the Oxford Hospital Board Region.

6. HEALTH EDUCATION SERVICE

Under the National Health Act, 1946, the provision of this Service is the responsibility of the County Council, with whom your District might advantageously co-operate.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE

ADOPTIVE ACTS

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1890.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, AMENDMENT ACT, 1907.

Part II adopted.

Part VI adopted.

Part VII Section 81 adopted only.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925.

The whole adopted with the exception of Section 22.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Section I adopted.

BYELAWS

BUILDING BYELAWS

BYELAWS FOR NEW STREETS

BYELAWS FOR THE HANDLING, WRAPPING AND DELIVERY OF FOOD

SCHOOLS

The Schools in the town are as follows :

1. County Secondary Modern Boys—

Average number of pupils on the roll ... 200

Average attendance 172

Sanitary accommodation consists of six water closets, one urinal.

2. County Secondary Modern Girls—

Average number of pupils on the roll ... 169

Average attendance 154

Sanitary accommodation consists of ten water closets and one for the staff.

3. County Primary Boys—

Average number of pupils on the roll ... 205

Average attendance 188

Sanitary accommodation consists of five water closets and one urinal.

4. County Primary Girls—

Average number of pupils on the roll ... 195

Average attendance 178

New sanitary accommodation has been installed consisting of ten water closets for the pupils and one for the staff.

5. County Primary Infants—

Average number of pupils on the roll ... 265

Average attendance 226

The sanitary accommodation consists of two new buildings containing eleven water closets for the girls and ten water closets for the boys respectively.

SCHOOL CLOSURES

No school was closed during the year under review on account of Infectious Disease.

RAINFALL

The station at which the rainfall is taken is Woburn. The diameter of the funnel of the rain guage is 8 inches. Height above the ground is 12 inches. Altitude is 291 feet above sea level. Latitude 52 deg. 1 min. N. Longitude 0 deg. 35 min. W.

1950	Monthly Total	Rainfall in Previous Years		
	Total	Year	Woburn	England & Wales
January	0.65	1940	27.60	35.6
February	3.68	1941	25.52	33.8
March	0.69	1942	19.49	35.9
April	1.96	1943	19.09	33.4
May	4.61	1944	22.33	35.3
June	1.58	1945	20.65	33.27
July	5.34	1946	28.24	41.6
August	2.59	1947	18.46	35.23
September	3.10	1948	28.36	37.62
October	0.50	1949	20.28	30.9
November	4.27	1950	30.37	40.2
December	1.40			
Total	30.37			

I wish to express my thanks to Dr. Mann, of the Woburn Experimental Farm, for supplying me with the above information.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

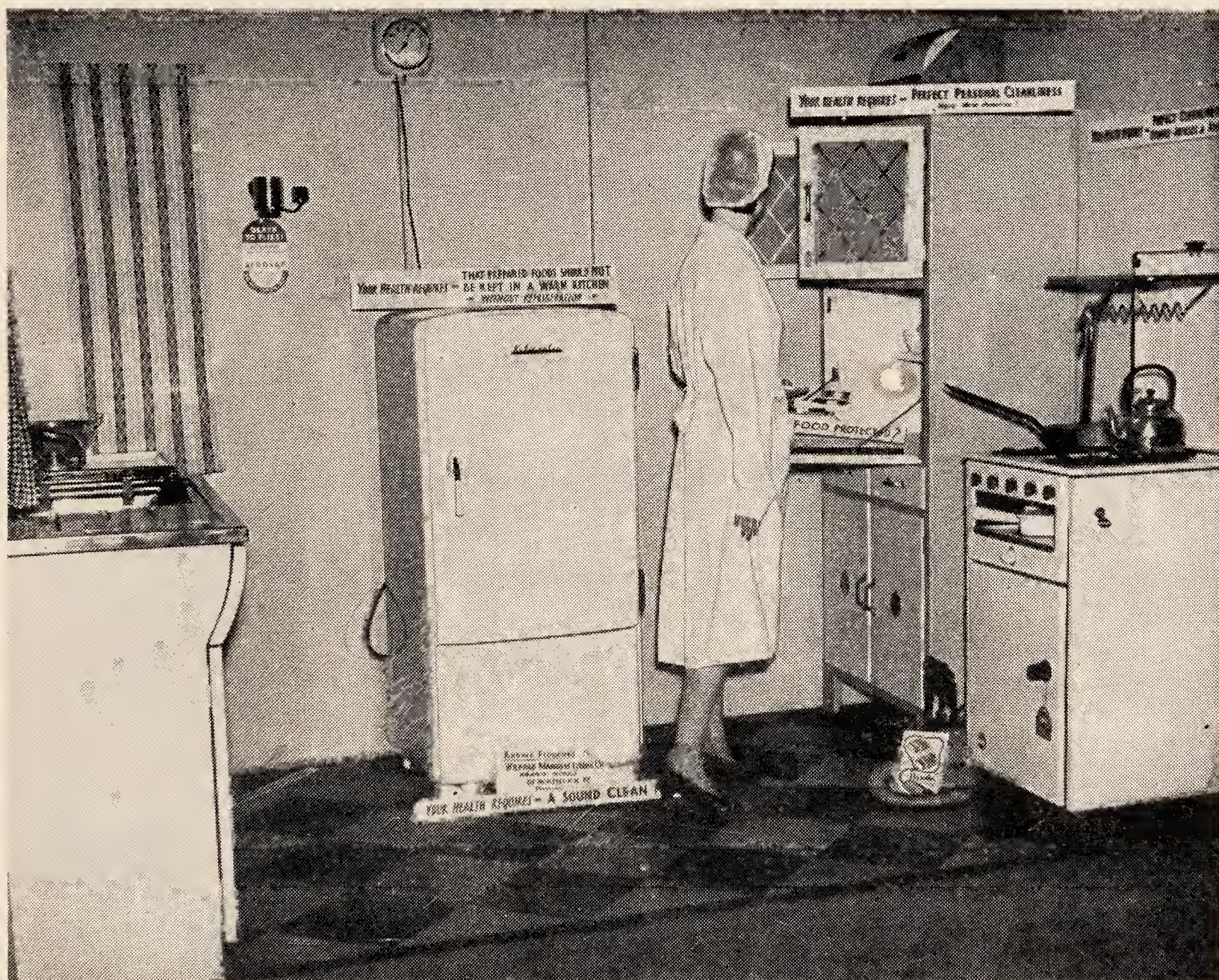
FOOD HYGIENE

Due to an increase in recent years of food poisoning in this country, which has been attributed mainly to a lowering of hygienic standards as a result of wartime conditions and the tremendous increase in communal feeding, the Local Authority decided that the best way of tackling the problem initially would be to persuade the public and the food handler to become more "clean food conscious." In order to achieve this, a Clean Food Exhibition was held in the Territorial Hall, West Street, on the 25th May, 1950. Before the actual Exhibition was launched, there was a "build-up" campaign of lectures to various organisations, schools and canteens. Special meetings of Women's Church Organisations were held with talks and film shows. On the 19th April a Conference of all food handlers was held in the North Street Methodist Schoolroom, with interesting talks by Mr. Morley Parry, Ministry of Food Hygiene Division, and Dr. J. H. C. Walker, of the Public Health Laboratory, Luton, which was very well attended. The climax of the Campaign came with the Exhibition itself, which was attended by nearly 2,000 persons, and this number can be regarded as being really satisfactory. The Exhibition comprised the following:—

- (1) "Clean Food is Your Concern": An exhibit showing how bad practices can lead to very great ill-effects, misery and unhappiness.

- (2) "Is Your Shop Clean Like This?—": The emphasis here being that it is not necessary to have modern, up-to-date equipment to maintain cleanliness.
- (3) "—Or Dirty, Like This?": An example of what conditions can cause contamination from dirty practices.
- (4) The Public Health Laboratory Services: This Stand dealt with food-borne infections, bacteriological charts and cultures and strongly emphasised personal hygiene and the consequent protection it afforded against food poisoning.
- (5) Milk and Ice-Cream Distribution: Showing good and bad methods and how the Retailer and Consumer can both play their part.
- (6) Good and Bad Food Storage: This was self-explanatory, emphasising the need to keep clean all food storage premises, including the Housewife's larder.
- (7) Good and Bad Washing Up: Various machines and detergents displayed to show hygienic methods for washing up of crockery, cutlery and utensils, etc. Practical demonstrations were given at this Stand.
- (8) Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Exhibit: This explained the danger and preventative methods of food infection from rodents. The exhibit also included a film unit, and an operator was in continuous attendance for the showing of films.

We trust the Exhibition will have made people realise the dangers of unhygienic practices, and that not only will the food handler have become more "clean food conscious," but that the public interest will have been sufficiently aroused to demand a higher standard of cleanliness.



Photograph : Leighton Buzzard Observer

WATER SUPPLY

The Town is supplied with water from two boreholes sunk into the greensand at the Waterworks, Stanbridge Road. The quantity pumped varied between 250,000 and 300,000 gallons per day.

No. 1 Borehole is 20 inches in diameter and 211 feet in depth. The water is raised by means of a 5-stage 6-inch diameter electrically driven centrifugal pump through the pressure filters direct to the Reservoir, at the rate of 11,500 gallons per hour.

No. 2 Borehole is 27 inches in diameter and 250 feet in depth. The water is raised by an 8-stage 8-inch diameter electrically driven centrifugal pump at the rate of 12,000 gallons per hour, through the pressure filters, and is then boosted through a 7-inch diameter rising main to the Reservoir by means of an electrically driven booster pump.

When it is necessary to operate both pumps at the same time to maintain the supply, the pumping rate is regulated to 15,000 gallons per hour, which at present is the maximum filtration rate.

The filtration plant consists of three 8 feet diameter Candy vertical air-scoured pressure filters containing beds of sand and polarite to remove the iron and reduce the manganese. The maximum capacity of each filter is 5,000 gallons per hour.

The new plant at Stanbridge Road Waterworks was commenced in July and at the end of the year the main constructional work was nearing completion.

It is hoped to have the plant working during the late summer of 1951 and it will include the complete treatment of the water at the works in order to dispose of carbon di-oxide, iron and manganese, all of which are present in the raw water in appreciable quantities.

The water is, at present, chlorinated by a Candy Minor Chlorinator, and contains from 0.1 to 0.15 parts per million of free chlorine as supplied to the consumer.

The purity of the supply is controlled by routine sampling from the source and from various points in the supply system.

Monthly samples were taken and sent for bacteriological examination and the reports received proved the supply to be of a high standard of purity.

The following is a typical result of a chemical examination:—

	Parts per 100,000,000
Nitric nitrogen (Nitrates)	0.00
Nitrous nitrogen (Nitrites)	Nil
Ammoniacal nitrogen	0.071
Albuminoid nitrogen	0.021
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C	0.40
Lead or Copper	Nil
Temporary hardness (equivalent to Ca CO ₃) ...	16.0
Permanent hardness (" " " ") ...	8.5
Total hardness (" " " ") ...	2.45

The following are particulars of the number of population supplied from Public Water Mains :

	No. of Houses	Population
Direct to houses	2,615	9,009
From stand pipes	14	49

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The sewerage of the district is on the separate system. The northern portion of the town is drained by gravitation direct to the Sewage Disposal Works, and the southern portion of the town, which is divided into four areas, drains to four ejector stations situated in Hockliffe Road, South Street, Lake Street and Bridge Street, where the sewage is raised by means of compressed air through 5-inch diameter cast iron rising mains to the high level sewers. The compressed air is generated at the Waterworks, Stanbridge Road, and is conveyed by means of cast iron pipes to the four ejector stations.

The scheme described in the report for 1948 for connecting up the three ejector stations in Hockliffe Road, South Street and Lake Street, and for the construction of a pumping station near Chain Bridge, including the provision of new ejectors and a compressor station in Bridge Street, was approved by the Ministry of Health in 1949, and equipment for the commencement of the work began to arrive during the latter part of the year.

The completion of this scheme will eliminate the risk of overflowing sewage in certain parts of the low-lying areas which has occurred when the ejectors have failed to cope with abnormal flows.

The outfall sewer at the Sewage Disposal Works discharges into two screening chambers with manually operated screens.

The sewage is treated by means of two continuous flow settling tanks, three 74 feet diameter clinker filters, two humus tanks and a chlorinating plant at the entrance to the Works.

The sludge from the settling tanks is drained into a sump and raised through a rising main by means of a centrifugal pump to shallow drying beds at the extreme end of the Works.

A Storm water tank is provided for dealing with over three times the dry weather flow, which has a weir outlet and overflow to the irrigation area.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

All drains are examined before being covered in and smoke or water tests are carried out where applicable.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The rivers and streams in the urban area are the Ousel and Clipstone Brook. They are subject to serious flooding during heavy storms and the Council have energetically pursued the Great Ouse Catchment Board to prepare a scheme to alleviate the trouble. Both streams were periodically inspected and sampled and found to be free from any serious pollution. The River Ousel adjoins the sewage works and receives the outfall effluent.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There is a swimming bath situated in the grounds of the Cedars School for the use of the pupils and members of the staff, which is provided with a chlorinating plant. Pupils from the Secondary Modern Schools are also allowed to use the bath.

The Spinney Pool in Billington Road, which for many years was used by the public for bathing and swimming, has now been abandoned for this purpose due to tipping operations on adjoining land by British Railways.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The weekly collection of house refuse is carried out by the Council's staff with a covered motor vehicle, and trade refuse is collected on application at a charge of ninepence per dustbin.

The disposal of refuse by the method of controlled tipping has been in operation at the Council's Tip in Vandyke Road since 1935, and although at times, infestations of crickets have caused considerable anxiety to the Council, I am pleased to be able to report that this trouble has now been adequately controlled by the making of careful inspections of the Tip during the breeding season and the prompt dressing of the surface with Gammexane powder immediately there were signs of an infestation.

The house refuse from the Urban District of Linslade is now being received at the Tip on an agreed financial basis.

Tradesmen are allowed to remove their own refuse to the Tip for disposal during the mornings of any weekday, except Saturday, without a charge being made.

The Tip is periodically inspected by the Council's Rodent Operator and only on very rare occasions has it been necessary to carry out destruction work.

Street gullies are periodically cleansed and flushed with clean water, and during hot weather the latter operation is repeated as often as required.

Cesspools in the outlying parts of the district are emptied by arrangement with the Luton Rural District Council.

DISINFECTION

Premises are disinfected after the removal or recovery of infectious cases, and disinfectant fluid is supplied to the public at the Council's West Street Depot, free of cost.

The number of disinfections carried out during the year was fourteen.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Careful investigations are still carried out with a view to the eradication of the bed bug. Council houses are inspected and tenants are encouraged to report any signs of infestation or re-infestation of their houses. All such cases which come to our notice, whether in Council houses or private houses, are promptly dealt with by fumigation or spraying.

Families who have been allocated Council houses are interviewed on the above subject, and with their co-operation and consent, their homes are inspected and, when necessary, their furniture and bedding are fumigated with Hydrogen Cyanide in a Furniture Van hired from a local contractor. The work is carried out by a trained operator who retains the keys of the new houses until he has tested and certified the furniture and bedding free from danger.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Most of the occupiers of these dwellings in the urban district are people who are unable to obtain normal residence in the town, but there are also those who, owing to the nature of their work, frequently have to move from one district to another. Though having every sympathy with these dwellers, the Council ensure complete control through the medium of the Public Health Act and Town Planning Law.

Applications dealt with during the year numbered 12 and all the licences which were granted were limited to a period not exceeding 12 months.

	Granted	Refused
1. Licences to allow land to be used as a site for moveable dwellings ...	Nil	Nil
2. Licences to erect, station or use moveable dwellings	11	1

KNACKERS' YARD

There is one knackers' yard suitably situated on the outskirts of the district, which is kept in a satisfactory condition.

FACTORIES

The following are the principal factories in the town which employ a considerable number of hands :

- 4 Concrete roofing tile works
- 1 Floor tile works
- 2 Manufacturers of concrete products
- 1 Manufacturer of precision instruments
- 1 Manufacturer of plastic boxes and stationery
- 2 Sandwashing and grading plants
- 1 Corset factory
- 2 Clothing factories
- 1 Laundry
- 2 Agricultural engineering works
- 1 Gas works

The remainder of the factories where only a small number of hands are employed assist chiefly of Brush makers, Basket makers, Joiners, General Engineers, Saddlers, Printers, and Furriers.

During the year 2 certificates were issued under Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937, as having adequate means of escape in case of fire.

PREScribed PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

	Premises	Number on Register	NUMBER OF			Occupiers prosecuted
			Inspections	Written Notices		
(i)	Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	13	18	—	—	
(ii)	Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	65	35	—	—	
(iii)	Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises)	4	12	1	—	
	Total	82	65	1	—	
2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:						
	Particulars	Number of Defects		Referred by H.M. Inspector	No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
		Found	Remedied			
	Want of cleanliness	1	1	—	—	
	Sanitary Accommodation:					
	(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	
	(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1	1	—	
	(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	
	Other offences against the Act	—	—	—	—	
	Total	3	2	1	—	

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUT-WORK (Sections 110 and 111)—There were no persons so employed.

HOUSING

The development of the Council's Clarence Road Housing Estate has maintained steady progress during the year and the Council are now preparing for the establishment of a further estate towards the southern area of the district.

The following is the number and type of pre-war and post-war houses built by the Council up to the end of 1950.

	Two Bedroom	Three Bedroom	Four Bedroom	Flats	Total
Pre-war Council Houses	4	156	10	—	170
Post-war Council Houses :					
(1) Temporary Bungalows (Tarran type)	31	—	—	—	31
(2) Garden Hedge Estate (Traditional Houses) ...	—	77	5	16	98
(3) Clarence Road Estate :					
(a) Aluminium Bungalows ...	100	—	—	—	100
(b) Traditional Houses ...	12	91	6	12	121
(c) Aged Persons' Bungalows	8	—	—	—	8
	—	—	—	—	—
	155	324	21	28	528
	—	—	—	—	—

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	122
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	217
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	6
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	10
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	28

2. REMEDEY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	24
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :

A. Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :						
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	...				Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	11
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :				
(a) By owners	...	...	...	11
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	...		Nil

C. Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	Nil

D. Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	Nil

Total number of traditional new houses and flats erected and completed in 1949 classified as follows :

By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	77
By private enterprise	...	...	...	...	9

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

HOUSING

Under Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	305
Number of notices served, informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
Number of notices served, statutory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Premises disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Infestations dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Drains tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14

FOOD PREMISES

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Knackers' Yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ice-Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Registered Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36

SUMMARY OF WORKS CARRIED OUT

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Guttering & Rainwater pipes cleaned out or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Dirty houses cleansed and distempered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
New sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
External wall repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Water supplies improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Water closets repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Sanitary dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Additional water closets provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

There are 20 Milk Distributors and 10 Dairy premises registered in the Urban District. Inspection throughout the year has shown that they are continually maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Thirteen retail detailers' licences and 1 supplementary licence were granted to distributors under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949, six of which were for Tuberculin Tested Milk and eight for Pasteurised Milk.

The majority of the retail distributors obtain their supplies in bulk and in bottles from Pasteurising Establishments in other districts, and there is only a small proportion of raw milk being retailed to the public.

Fifty-five samples of milk were taken and sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Luton, for testing, and according to the reports received, forty-three of the samples complied with the required standards.

Seven samples of milk sent for biological examination showed that, on post-mortem examination, there was no infection with Tuberculosis.

ICE-CREAM

Four premises were registered during the year for the sale of ice-cream, which has increased the number of registered premises to twenty-three.

There is only one establishment registered for the manufacture of ice-cream, and this is provided with the most modern plant and equipment for producing ice-cream of a high standard of bacteriological purity and the results obtained have shown that out of thirty-five samples taken from the firm, 60 per cent were in Grade 1 and no samples came into Grade 4.

I am pleased to state that practically the whole of the ice-cream which is produced in the town or is brought in by wholesale dealers, is sold in pre-packed form.

Sixty-six samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Luton, for bacteriological examination and according to the present system of grading, 88 per cent were of a very satisfactory standard.

FOOD PREMISES

Sixteen premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale. These premises are kept under strict supervision and I am able to report that they are maintained in a cleanly condition.

Restaurants, shops and stalls where food is prepared, stored or offered for sale, are regularly inspected and steps taken to ensure that the premises and utensils are maintained in a cleanly condition, and that the food is prepared and handled under hygienic conditions.

The following articles of food at various shop premises were examined and condemned :

34 tins Fish	67 Pkts. Custard Powder
339 tins Meat and Vegetables	27 Pkts. Gravy Salt
169 tins Fruit	19 Pkts. Jelly
10 tins Jam	440 Bottles Sauce
217 tins Milk	5 tins Cocoa
75 lbs. Beef	19 stones Fish

SLAUGHTERHOUSE

The slaughterhouse, which is situated in the centre of the town, was originally a private one, but was taken over by the Ministry of Food under the Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order, 1940. Meat inspection is carried out by a Veterinary Surgeon who is employed part-time by the Local Authority, and the meat is allocated to the two adjoining districts of Linslade and Hockliffe.

The following is the number of carcasses inspected and condemned during 1950:—

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed and inspected	861	313	2043	103	3320
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole Carcasses condemned	2	1	5	4	12
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	189	3	23	21	236
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	22.18%	1.27%	1.37%	24.27%	—
Tuberculosis only					
Whole Carcasses condemned	14	—	—	—	14
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	79	1	1	—	81
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	10.80%	0.31%	0.04%	—	343

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

Total number of outbreaks	Number of cases	Number of deaths	Organisms or other agents responsible with number of outbreaks of each	Foods involved with number of outbreaks of each
—	—	—	—	—

RODENT CONTROL

The Council employ an experienced Rodent Operator whose services are also shared by the Linslade Urban District Council in accordance with the arrangements agreed to by the Ministry of Food when Leighton Buzzard and Linslade formed a Workable Area Committee for the purpose of organising and dealing with the survey and destruction work in the two districts.

Strict supervision has been maintained over the district for which we are responsible, and frequent inspections have been made of areas which are more liable to become infested, and as a result of these investigations, destruction work was carried out to 107 properties, which are summarised below:—

Dwelling Houses	...	85
Factories	...	9
Sewage Works	...	4
Refuse Tip	...	4
Stables	...	1
Hotels	...	2
Brook Courses	...	2

As a result of the Council adopting the scheme for the free treatment of dwelling-houses, a noticeable difference was experienced by the Operator in the assistance and co-operation he received from residents.

Work carried out on other premises was charged up to the occupiers who have frequently expressed their satisfaction on the success of the treatment.

During the year, one routine treatment was carried out to the sewers in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Cases of Infectious Disease requiring treatment are sent to Spittlesea Hospital, Luton. As mentioned earlier in this Report, this Hospital is now the property of the Minister of Health and is administered by the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board through the Luton and Hitchin Hospital Group Management Committee.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

DYSENTERY.—One case of amoebic dysentery was reported from the R.A.F. Camp and this was removed to an R.A.F. hospital. Two cases of bacillary dysentery were notified, one of which was admitted to hospital.

MEASLES.—Forty cases were notified as compared with thirty last year. The bulk of these cases occurred in the third quarter of the year, and affected chiefly children over two years of age. Both age and seasonable factors were favourable, since complications and fatalities are more liable to occur in the earliest years and in winter months.

WHOOPING COUGH.—The majority of the forty-one cases occurred in the last quarter of the year, but here, too, the main incidence occurred in children over two years of age. No deaths from either infection occurred.

PNEUMONIA.—Two-thirds of the thirty notified cases occurred in the first quarter of the year and affected persons over 45 years of age.

SCARLET FEVER.—Five sporadic cases were notified none of which was admitted to hospital.

ERYSIPELAS.—Three cases were notified.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

No outbreaks of note occurred.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1949

Disease	Number of Cases, Notified												Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
	At all Ages	Under 1 Year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & Upwards	
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small Pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	5	..	..	1	..	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	2	..
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
Dysentery	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	2	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia	30	1	..	..	1	2	3	2	..	1	2	11	7	3
Erysipelas	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..
Measles	40	1	3	6	8	8	12	..	..	1	1	..	1	..
Whooping Cough	41	4	2	4	5	8	15	1	1	1	..	..	..	..
Acute Polio-Myelitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	123	7	5	11	14	19	33	4	1	5	5	12	8	3

CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFIED DURING 1949

Age Periods				New Cases				Deaths			
				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	..	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	..	..	..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	..	..	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
10	..	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	..	..	..	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	..	..	..	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
25	..	..	..	2	1	...	1	...	..	...	...
35	..	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45	..	..	..	1	...	...	..	...	..	...	...
55	..	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
65 and upwards	..		..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	..	..		7	4	...	2	...	1	...	...

The one tuberculosis death occurred in a person who had not previously been notified as suffering from this infection.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925, and Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.

No action was required to be taken under these Acts.

ARTIFICIAL IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

With the coming into force of the National Service Act, 1946, on 5th July, 1949, the County Council assumed responsibility for the functioning of a scheme under which facilities are available for children of all ages to obtain this important preventive treatment free of charge, either from the family doctor at his surgery, or from a medical officer at any of the Welfare Centres or schools within the County.

Number of children at 31st December, 1950, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1935):—

								Total Under
Age at 31/12/50	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15
(i.e., born in year)	1950	49	48	47	46	41-45	36-40	1236
		99	111	92	90	444	400	

Estimated mid-year Child Population, 1950 :

Under 5, 743; 5-14, 1,085; total, 1,828.

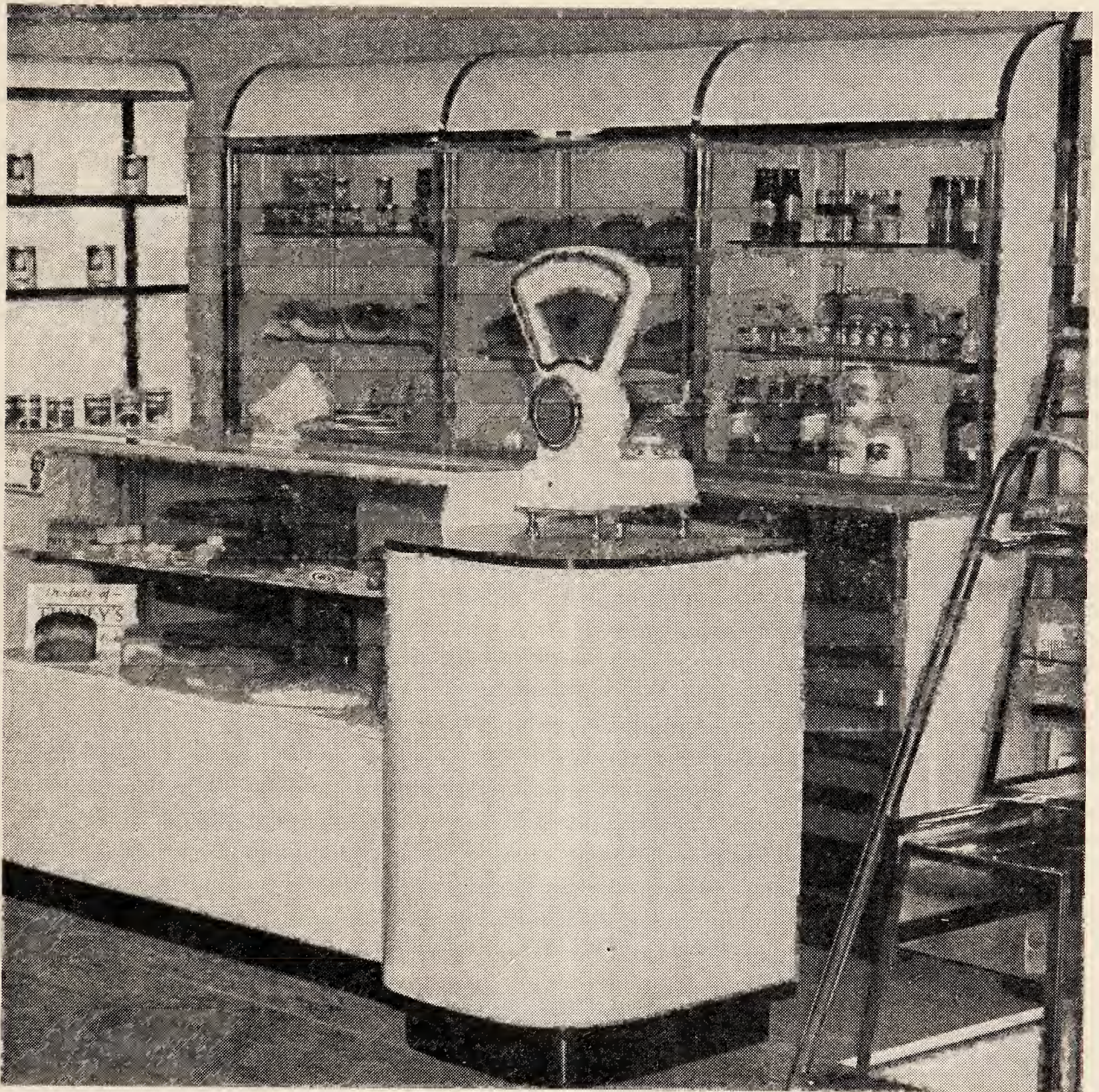
These figures indicate that 52.7 per cent of the child population under 5 years of age has been immunised against diphtheria, as compared with 46.6 per cent at the end of 1949. 77.7 per cent of the child population of 5-14 years has been immunised against diphtheria, as compared with 75.6 per cent at the end of the previous year; while 67.6 per cent of the children under 15 years of age has been protected against diphtheria by immunisation.

TREATMENT OF SCABIES

By arrangements with the County Council, infected persons are treated at the Health Centre, Dunstable.

During the year under review no persons have received treatment.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.—No action was required under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.



Photograph : Leighton Buzzard Observer

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1950 AND PREVIOUS YEARS

Year	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	TOTAL BIRTHS					Total Deaths Registered in the District		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		Nett Deaths belonging to the District			
		Live Births		Still Births			Number	Rate	No. of Non-residents registered in the District 9	No. of Residents registered in the District 10	Under One Year of Age		At all Ages	
		No.	Rate	No.	Rate	Number					Rate per 1,000 Nett Births 12	Number	Rate	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1941	8604	114	13.24	5	0.58	68	7.94	17	47	4	35.0	98	11.39	
1942	7848	117	14.90	1	0.12	63	8.06	4	46	8	68.3	105	13.39	
1943	7600	114	15.00	0	0.00	53	6.99	3	40	0	0.00	90	11.84	
1944	7601	126	16.57	4	0.52	66	8.68	8	45	9	71.4	103	13.55	
1945	7550	163	21.59	6	0.78	63	8.34	0	32	5	30.6	95	12.59	
1946	7572	168	22.72	4	0.53	70	9.24	2	35	4	23.8	103	13.73	
1947	7730	166	21.50	2	0.25	58	7.50	3	23	4	24.1	78	10.10	
1948	8435	165	19.50	4	0.47	71	8.41	4	33	3	18.2	100	11.9	
1949	8710	188	21.60	3	0.34	67	7.69	2	44	6	31.3	110	12.6	
1950	9105	155	17.00	4	0.44	70	7.69	5	48	5	31.4	113	12.4	

Population 1931 Census — 7030

H. JACKSON & Co.
(Printers & Publishers)
High Street, Leighton Buzzard
